



April 1995

Volume XXI Issue 4



This month brings both challenges and rewards, along with a question mark or two. First, in the rewards area a BIG thanks for a job well done to Cliff and the entire Club Banner redesign committee. The finished product of their efforts will be unveiled at the FWRC Spring Banquet in May, just in time for our summer activities.

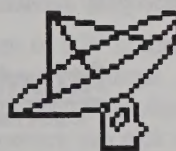
The question mark of the month goes to the 75th anniversary commemorative event contest responses, there were NONE?? Was it a lack of interest, or an early case of spring fever?? Anyway, the FWRC board of directors will discuss the subject at the April meeting.

It turns out that the Foxhunt was the second question mark, with 4 hounds out of 8 finding the fox. A lot was learned, particularly that a real clandestine transmitter may not have a perfect signal, and could be very difficult to locate.

As for the challenge, it is in the form of a proposed tower and antenna height restriction ordinance for the town of New Haven, a spinoff from the huge GTE tower battle last year. Last Monday, March 27 some of our members met with the councilman writing the ordinance, to provide requested representation and technical input from the amateur radio community. He was not aware of several aspects of amateur radio, or the antenna requirements for reliable higher frequency communications, which gave those attending the opportunity to provide factual guidance. This issue is not of immediate concern to most of us in

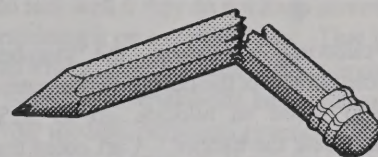
Fort Wayne and Allen county, but being so close in proximity, the outcome could very well affect us in the future. A Thank You to our members who took the time to represent Amateur Radio. We are planning a large turnout at the New Haven Planning & Zoning Commission meeting on April 18, at which time the completed ordinance will be presented and voted on by the council. The time will be around 7-7:30pm and the meeting will be held at the New Haven City Council building, on the corner of US 14 and Green Street. Listen for updates via the .76 repeater. Please plan to attend.

A couple of notes about the autopatch, the preceding "9" cannot be eliminated when making calls unless the FWRC has it's own telephone line installed. It appears a residential line may be possible, if the membership feels the need justifies the monthly expense. I would appreciate some feedback on the subject. Meanwhile, if anyone desires a 3 digit speed dial code for frequently called numbers, give me the information so it can be programmed into the autopatch controller.



The next meeting of the Fort Wayne Radio Club will be held at the Salem Church clubhouse Friday, April 21 at 7:30pm sharp. A tour of the National Weather Service facilities at Baer Field will follow a short business meeting. Car pooling is encouraged. Hope to see everyone there. 73's.

Carl (N9NRO)



## March 1995 Minutes

*The following are the recorded minutes of the Fort Wayne Radio Club:*

The March meeting of the Ft. Wayne Radio Club was held at the Salem Church of Christ on 17 March, 1995 and started at 19:30 hours. There were about 40 persons in attendance. The meeting was brought to order by president Carl Rittenhouse.

The minutes of the February meeting were read and after one correction, they were approved. Scott Sides gave a brief Treasurers report. Jim Pliett gave a fox hunt report. Carl announced that a Club roster will be made available to anyone who wants one at the April meeting.

Carl noted that suggestions for the theme of a special event activity intended to Commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Fort Wayne Radio Club were being solicited. All suggestions received will be reviewed at the next board meeting with the goal of selecting the special event theme at the board meeting so that it can be reported at the next club meeting.

Cliff Shreve reported that the banner committee had developed a new banner design concept. The new design was passed around to the club members and an example of the new banner was displayed by our Subcontractor, custom graphics (Carl Thomas). The new banner will be 8' long and will be fabricated of high quality vinyl. Several questions were raised from the membership regarding the background color scheme proposed by the committee.

# Hamsplatter

Fort Wayne  
Radio Club  
Since 1920

The HAMSPLATTER is published monthly by the Fort Wayne Radio Club, PO Box 15127 Fort Wayne, IN, 46885

Kris Staller, KF9AW Editor/Com Mgr 486-7324; Carl Rittenhouse, N9NRO, President 485-4012; Clifford Shreve, N9MKB, Vice President 483-7570; Al Burke, WB9SSE, Secretary 637-1989; Scott Sides, N9PXG, Treasurer 744-3478;



## March Minutes (continued)

Following discussion, the membership voted to accept the design as presented, and also voted to allocate up to \$250 to fabricate the banner. Carl noted that the QSL Committee had been reconstituted. This time the committee is Bill Hall, Bill Kindred and Harry Harvey. They will develop three separate designs. One will consist of the Old Fort design while the other two will be new. The three designs will be presented to the Club at the next meeting and if approved will be provided to a printer as repro artwork. The printer will develop order forms that will be made available to the Club membership so that the members can order whichever design they choose directly from the printer, i.e., the transaction will be between the club member and the printer. There will not be a Club QSL card intermediary. Carl noted that code and theory classes are scheduled to commence at the ITT Technical Institute (on Coldwater Rd.) starting March 20 from 19:00 to 21:00. Classes will occur on Mondays and Thursdays for 6 to 7 weeks and will cover what you need to know to pass the Novice and Technician exams. Instructors include Bill Kindred and Jule Franke for code, and Jim Weigand and Kris Staller for theory. Students are asked to park on the right side of the (ITT) building.

Carl discussed several aspects relating to Field Day. He said that Dino Raptis had expressed concern about the availability of Novice operators for the Novice tent as this had been a problem last year. A tent and equipment to support Novice operations are already lined up for this year, so if you know of any Novices who might be interested in participating in the Field Day experience, let Carl know. Carl proposed that this year we will have a hog roast for the Saturday on-site dinner with supplemental chicken for those who don't like/cannot accommodate pork. The hog would be catered while the side dishes would be provided by the ladies. The meal would be priced at \$5.00/adult, \$4.00 for children under 10. This plan requires that 70 or more people attend. The consensus of the members present indicated that we should proceed with this plan; i.e. We should go hog-wild! Carl noted that there has been interest expressed in establishing a FWRC BBS. The BBS would provide a source of

Club information as a basic service in addition to the usual BBS offerings. If we were to proceed, we would need to establish a system operator, and the Club would need to provide for the hardware and software required to establish the BBS. Carl asked that the membership consider the idea so that we may discuss it at a future Club meeting. Carl announced that telephone system upgrades at I&M had resulted in a disruption of auto patch service. At present the telephone upgrade has required that a "9" precede the desired telephone number to be called when using the auto path. There are ways to eliminate the "9" prefix requirement, but they would involve additional recurring costs to the Club. After much discussion, it was concluded that we should leave things as they are. This conclusion was voted upon and approved by the membership present. Carl noted that the Spring Banquet is planned to occur in May. We need a volunteer to act as coordinator. The club will provide the meat, the drinks, and the silverware, etc. Club members will provide supplementary goodies. If you would like to volunteer to lead this activity, please contact Carl. The meeting program consisted of an "elmer's meeting" which provided a panel of club experts that answered questions relating to any and all aspect of the Amateur Radio hobby. The meeting concluded about 21:30 hours.

*Respectfully submitted, Al Burke, WB9SSE*

## Attention YLs

-Carole Burke, WB9RUS

Coming soon to our area is an organization just for us, the Summit City Young Ladies Amateur Radio Club, or S.C.Y.L.A.R.C. (pronounced Skylark). We can still belong to the Fort Wayne Radio Club, AC-ARTS, or Portside. In fact, an interested Y.L. really wouldn't need to be licensed, she could be a non-voting associate member.

I have wanted a special Y.L. club in this area for the longest time. I think that we finally have enough Y.L.'s in this area to support a group like this. I would also like the group to be affiliated with the Y.L.R.L. (the Young Ladies Radio League.) The wheels are in motion to get this started.

We are not quite ready to have a first meeting, but I certainly would like to hear from all the Y.L.'s in the area to have your opinions and suggestions. I'm sure at first we will meet in someone's home, but in time, I hope there are enough of us that a home won't be large enough.

I urge all Y.L.'s who are going to the Dayton Hamvention to attend the Y.L.R.L. Forum on Saturday, the exact time and place are unknown to me at this time. The details will be in the Hamvention program. I have met some of the greatest gals there. By the way, I am the 9th District Chairman for the Y.L.R.L.:

Please call me at 637-1989 after 5:00 or drop me a note at 11714 Millstone Drive, Fort Wayne, 46818 with any suggestions or questions you may have.

## "ALGORE" Declares War on Ham Towers, Antennas

*And you thought the New Haven tower ordinance was restrictive! :*

Vice President Al Gore proposed a two-phase bill on April 1, 1995 which the White House feels would reduce the effects of radiation from amateur antennas, as well as eliminate the visible environmental impact of amateur antennas.

According to a White House official, "Our bill would place tough restrictions on eyesore antennas and give us a national standard instead of many local antenna laws. The bill will also include guidelines for RF radiation (power) limits. This administration is concerned about the effects of radiation on the environment and on unborn children. There is no reason why amateurs should radiate themselves and neighbors with excessive powers of 50 watts and more".

The second phase of the bill would place a tax on FCC amateur license applications and on antenna construction permits which would have to be filed with a yet-to-be-announced federal agency.

*This is yet another blow to Ham Radio from the Administration which auctioned off spectrum to make a quick tax buck. Be sure to voice your concerns about this issue to your local House and Senate representatives - ed.*



## U.S. Coast Guard abandons CW

- Columbus Post Dispatch

As of Friday night, March 31 1995, the U.S. Coast Guard stopped listening. "The chilling SOS signal will never again be received... We bid you 73. What hath God wrought," the Coast Guard said in a farewell message at 7 p.m. Coast Guard communications everywhere laid their keys to rest in favor of modern technologies. The job of communicating with those ships that still use Morse code will be transferred to a network of private shore stations under contract to the government.

In 1999, international treaties will require all ships to convert to modern technologies under the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System. When this occurs, even private listening posts will discontinue operations. Adolph L. Keyes, telecommunications policy section chief says the remaining "radiomen" -now "telecommunications specialists" -will be shifting to other duties.

Keyes estimates that 90 percent of ocean-going ships now receive Coast Guard services over modern radio-Teletype machines and computers. Keyes stated his reasons for the shutting down operations. "It is more efficient and provides better coverage and more reliability, and it's somewhat more user-friendly and less labor-intensive."

## No-CW Debates Rage on Packet Radio System

- KF9AW

Recently, I have noticed a large influx of comments on packet regarding the role of CW in Ham Radio. An increasing opinion is that the code should just be abolished. The following is one such message, sent by a member of the "next generation" of amateur radio operators:

*I don't know if any agrees with me but think that CW is a mode that should be gotten rid of for the most part. Now day we can do the same thing that CW does now with Digital modes, Voice, Packet, etc..... I think it should be kept as a backup to the other modes but I don't think it should be the main mode of communications. It was at it's peak some 20 or more years ago and it should be put*

*on the shelf as a historic mode of communication. I know alot of the older hams (no offense intended) grew up with it but now days there are more efficient ways of getting across the message. Thats just my opinion.*

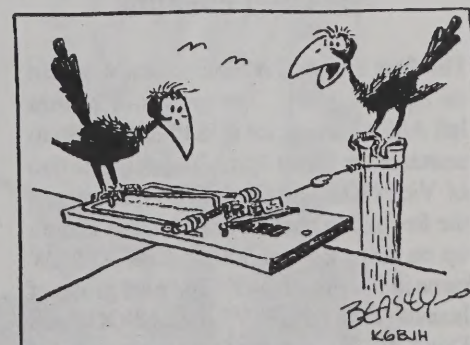
In the history of radio communications, certain modes were "put on the shelf" because they lacked one thing: spectrum efficiency. With spark gap operation, one station literally occupied the full known radio spectrum and greatly limited the number of stations which could simultaneously operate. A double sideband AM transmission occupied the same radio spectrum that can now support two suppressed-carrier, single-sideband transmissions. Vestigial-sideband fast-scan television is used to reduce the amount of spectrum once occupied by double-sideband FSTV. When newer modes of communication came out which allowed more stations to share the same amount of spectrum, the older, less efficient modes were shelved to allow greater sharing of the spectrum. Modern digital modes of communication do not allow for more efficient use of the radio spectrum over CW. Ten or more CW stations can operate in the same spectrum occupied by an FSK station, and 50 or more CW stations can operate in the spectrum occupied by a data station. Also note that the bandwidth of a digital transmission increases with the baud rate of the signal.

Another advantage of CW is that it works in the worst of band conditions. In heavy interference, static, and weak signal conditions, a skilled operator can pick out and copy the other station. The same cannot be said for digital modes of communications. In poor band conditions, the demodulation/decoding electronics are not fully sensitive enough to get a clean copy. They do utilize error-correction routines to guarantee that received data is good, but too many errors often result in aborted transfers or disconnections.

Proponents of CW abolition often state that the mode should be done away with, but held in reserve as a backup mode. I would suggest that an operator who has not used the code on a regular basis will not be able to respond in an emergency to a CW station as well as one who does. Very few human are capable of performing any

skilled task well if they do not keep current by practicing it on a regular basis. That is why all athletes train between competitions, why pilots practice take-offs and landings, and why medical personnel practice CPR. Those who fail to train are at risk for a sub-standard performance when the time of need arises. If we were to abolish Morse code as a mode of communication, we would have a declining pool a radio operators who would be able to copy. Let's face it folks, part of our charter is to provide emergency communications at a moments notice. Emergency situations are not going to wait for perfect band conditions so that your computers can get a clean digital copy. The station at the other end may be on battery power and without a directional antenna. How about a real-life situation where a downed aircraft has a broken radio which can only transmit a carrier? The only mode of communication is either going to be Morse code or twenty questions.

I would simply urge those of you who advocate the elimination of Morse code to remember that this is an issue of mode preferences. If you don't want to operate CW, then use your favorite mode of communications within the frequencies that you are licensed to operate in. If the frequencies and privileges that you desire require a CW element, then I would advise you to work within the system and learn the code/speed required. It is simply a skill that can be mastered only by practice and repetition. Many of these "older hams" were gracious enough to waive the Morse code requirement so that many of you could get into an entry level of ham radio. Before you make demands upon them to further reduce the licensing standards, step back and notice how much they have already given you.



BETTER WATCH THAT--- I DON'T THINK THIS GUY UNDERSTANDS THE CONCEPT OF A TRAP ANTENNA!



# FIELD DAY HOG ROAST

BUFFET STYLE DINNER

JUNE 24, 1995 5:30 P.M.

PAYTON PARK

COST: \$5.00 ADULTS

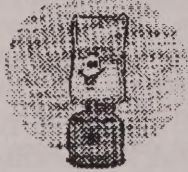
\$4.00 CHILDREN UNDER 10

CALL 637-6426 LET US

KNOW IF YOU PLAN TO

ATTEND AND TO GET YOUR  
TICKETS

BINGO - FOLLOW DINNER



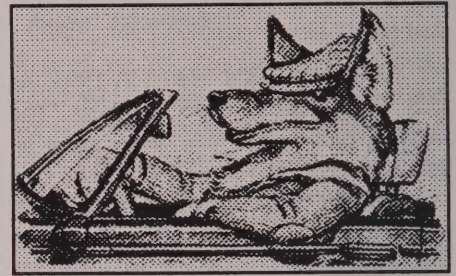
*WILL HAVE CHICKEN FOR THOSE  
WHO CANNOT EAT PORK*

## Whitley County ARC Holds First 440 Foxhunt

The first area 440 MHz Foxhunt was held on April 1, 1995. Ten groups of hunters left Aldi's parking lot (US30 & SR109) in search of the fox at 1pm. The dynamic duo of Vic N9GK and Clark WD9GJF bagged the fox in less than 18 minutes, at a church up on Riley Rd and 300N. Kris, KF9AW came in 3 minutes later. The next group of hounds (John KB9JBV/Lewis N9OOT and Don KA9QWC) showed up 37 minutes into

the hunt. At 43 minutes, Jeannie N9XXM and Dave WB9UNL pulled up. The last two hound groups to find the fox were Jim WD9AHF/Mike KB9IHS at 58 minutes, and Dave N9VTF/Roger N9QCL at 98 minutes. N9AVR and KF9VZ were in the hunt, but did not find the fox.

Well, it's Spring - and that means time changes. The next 440 Foxhunt will be held on the 2nd Saturday, May 13, at 1pm. Meet at the Aldi's parking lot at US30 and SR 109. The fox will be Kris KF9AW on 446.00.



## Allen County Fox Hunt

### Sly fox nearly evades hunters:

Well, Carl N9NRO was just about correct. He claimed that if he ever got to be the fox, no one would ever find him. He and Dave N9LOV were hidden in a wooded residential area between Lutheran hospital and Times Corner. They used a beam antenna with around 35 watts to hit the starting point. During the hunt, they proceeded to swing the beam a few degrees during transmission, along with a special circuit which offset the transmission frequency  $\pm 7$  kHz every second. This resulted in a signal that was impossible for many of the audio-switched null-detectors to lock onto. When inside the beam path, it was not unusual to have the attenuators set to a full 120dB to get null readings, but outside of the beam path, the signal was in the mud with 0dB attenuation. The fox's beam also appeared to energize the TV towers along Hillegas road, creating an artificial hot spot. This really threw off the hunters. The more experienced hunters switched to their back-up beam systems and were able to locate the fox right around the 2 hour 30 minute mark. Half of the hunters never found the fox within the allotted time frame. Jim KB9DOT and Kim KB9DOS were the first to find the fox, coming in around 1 hour, 16 minutes. KA8WEO came in at 2:09, K9OMA/KA9YYI at 2:32, and N9SCD at 2:39. The teams of N9GK/WD9GJF, KF9AW/KF9VZ, and N9AVR did not find the fox.

### Note the Summer Schedule time change:

The next Allen County fox hunt will take place on Monday May 7, 1995. Meet at the 4-H fairgrounds on Carroll road at 6:30pm. The hunt will begin at 7:00pm. The foxes will be KB9DOS and KB9DOT. Listen for them on 146.43.



# **SPRING BANQUET**

**CARRY IN POT LUCK**

**BRING THE FAMILY**

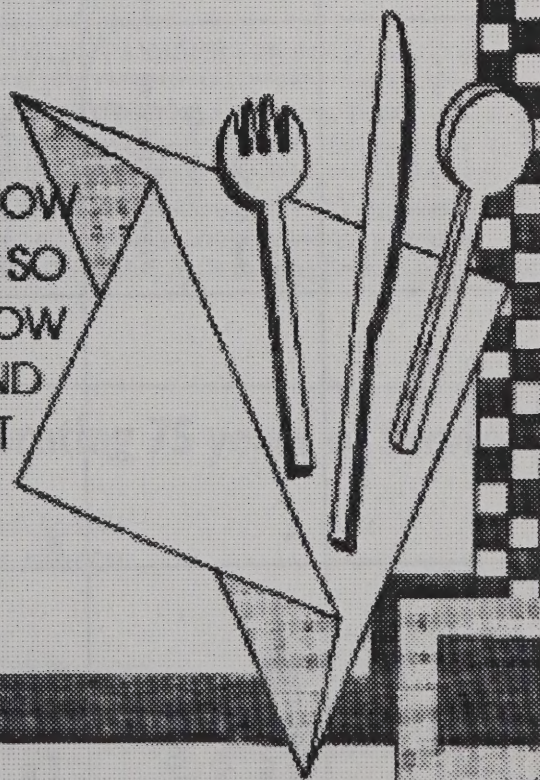
**MAY 19.1995**

**6:30 PM**

**SALEM CHURCH**

**CLUB WILL FURNISH MEAT DISH,  
DRINK AND TABLE SERVICE**

CALL 637-6426 LET US KNOW  
IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND SO  
THE CLUB WILL KNOW HOW  
MUCH MEAT, DRINK AND  
TABLE SERVICE TO GET







# 1995 - Communications Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		March 1995 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31				1 Hunt ARES 20:00 Holyland DX > SP DX >
2 Swap Net 19:00 Sloppy Code 21:00 < Holyland DX < SP DX	3	4 Hunt. ARES 20:00 WIAW Qual Run 21:00 TNT 20:00	5 Whitley ARES 19:15 21 Repeater Group 21:00 West Coast Qual Run 23:00	6  <b>FWRC Board 19:30</b>	7	8 Hunt. ARES 20:00 QRP ARCI QSO CW >
9 Swap Net 19:00 Sloppy Code 21:00 < QRP ARCI QSO CW	10	11 Hunt. ARES 20:00 TNT 20:00	12 Whitley ARES 19:15 21 Repeater Group 21:00 DXYL-NAYL CW >	13	14 JAPAN Intl DX > < DXYL-NAYL CW <b>FWRC Regular Meeting 19:30</b>	15 Hunt. ARES 20:00 SARTG WW AMTOR >  <i>Full Moon</i> ○
16 Swap Net 19:00 Sloppy Code 21:00 < JAPAN Intl DX < SATRG WW AMTOR  <b>EASTER Sunday</b> 	17 ARRL 144MHz Spring Sprints 19:00-23:00	18 Hunt. ARES 20:00 TNT 20:00	19 Whitley ARES 19:15 21 Repeater Group 21:00	20	21	22 Hunt. ARES 20:00 Friendship Contest > Ten-Ten Spring CW QSO > YU DX Contest >
23 Swap Net 19:00 Sloppy Code 21:00 < Friendship Contest < Ten-Ten Spring CW QSO < YU DX Contest  <b>St. Joseph MI Hamfest</b>	24	25 Hunt. ARES 20:00 ARRL 222 MHz Spring Sprints 19:00-23:00	26 Whitley ARES 19:15 21 Repeater Group 21:00 WIAW Qual Run 18:00 DXYL-NAYL Phone >	27	28 < DXYL-NAYL Phone <b>Dayton Hamfest &gt;</b>	29 Helvetia Contest >  <i>New Moon</i> ●

Check QST and CQ for Contest Times and Rules

(Times listed are in Eastern Standard Time GMT-5 hours)

[Key: > Event begins < Event ends]

NET FREQS: TNT 146.76 | Murphy Swap 146.94 | Sloppy Code 7.1405 | Huntington ARES 146.685 | Whitley ARES 147.150 | 21 Repeater Group 147.150

Daily Nets: Ft Wayne 6m 50.58 (simplex) 19:00 | IMO Traffic 146.88 18:30 | Auburn 147.360 18:00 | Foxtrol FM 28.100 19:00 | Mobile Ten SSB/CW 28.400 Saturday 19:00



## For Sale :

Ringo Ranger  
20 Ft pole w/ all hardware  
Asking \$30.00



John Homrig KA9MIO 493-3640

Do you have an interesting article, news item, or cartoon which you can contribute to the Hamsplatter? Do you have some spare equipment collecting dust that you want to sell? If so, please contact me, Kris, KF9AW. My day phone is 487-3286, evenings 486-7324. Packet messages can be directed to me on 144.97, W9INX.

\*\*\*\*\*

1994 MEMBERSHIP DATA: (Give this form to the treasurer at any FWRC meeting or mail to address below)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CALL \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS:   N     T     G     A     E  

MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME TELEPHONE # ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ WORK TELEPHONE # ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

SHALL WE LIST YOUR ADDRESS/PHONE# IN MEMBER ROSTER?   Y     N   ARRL MEMBER?   Y     N  

\*\*\*\*\*

MEMBERSHIP TERM: (JAN-DEC) (JULY-DEC, July 1-Dec 31 ONLY)

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: \_\_\_\_\_ \$21.00/yr \_\_\_\_\_ \$10.50/yr \_\_\_\_\_ immediate family (list all calls)

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP: \_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00/yr \_\_\_\_\_ \$7.50/yr licensed member

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP: \_\_\_\_\_ \$6.00/yr \_\_\_\_\_ \$3.00/yr full time student

ASSOCIATE MEMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00/yr \_\_\_\_\_ \$7.50/yr unlicensed member

YOUR CHECK NUMBER # \_\_\_\_\_ PLEASE PAY BY CHECK. IT'S EASIER FOR BOTH OF US!

\*\*\*\*\*

PLEASE RENEW YOUR ARRL MEMBERSHIP THROUGH THE FORT WAYNE RADIO CLUB, INC.  
IT'S EASY! SEND YOUR ARRL RENEWAL FORM AND A CHECK (payable to FWRC) TO THE CLUB.

\*\*\*\*\*

FORT WAYNE RADIO CLUB MEMBERSHIP HANDBOOK (CIRCLE THIS PARAGRAPH TO RESERVE ONE!)  
Provided at no cost to club members, this handbook provides a full set of information about present and past Club activities, events, and functions. The handbook is available in a clear cover binder, and is upgradeable by easy insertion of new pages into the three-hole binder.

## The Fort Wayne Radio Club - Celebrating 75 years of Service

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: CAROLE BURKE WB9RUS DAVE EVANS N9LOV  
WALT WOOD N9AVR RON BISHOP N9HZH

Repeaters:

Audio 146.16/.76 449.875/444.875

Autopatch 146.31/.91

Fast Scan TV 439.25/910.25 (Video) 144.34 (Aux sound input)





*April*  
1995

# HAMSPLATTER



**FORT WAYNE  
RADIO CLUB**  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

The Fort Wayne Radio Club  
P O Box 15127  
Fort Wayne, IN 46885

BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
FORT WAYNE, IN  
PERMIT 2072

To:

K9OMA/KA9YYI  
JIM & ANNE PLIETT  
16702 WAPPES RD.  
CHURUBUSCO, IN 46723